## Abstract

A projection optical system comprises a plurality of lenses disposed along an optical axis of the projection optical system; wherein the plurality of lenses is dividable into four non-overlapping groups of lenses of positive and negative refractive powers, wherein the following relation is fulfilled:

$$2 \cdot y \cdot NA \cdot \frac{1}{k} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{k} |\varphi_i| \geq V_1$$

wherein:

y is half a diameter in mm of a maximum image field imaged by the projection optical system,

NA is a maximum numerical aperture on a side of the second object,

 $\phi_i$  is a refractive power in  $mm^{-1}$  of the i<sup>th</sup> lens,

k is a total number of lenses of the projection optical system,

and wherein  $V_{i}$  is greater than 0.045.

25

10